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Joint Inspection Unit

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Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 56/245 of 24 December 2001, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the preliminary listing of reports for potential inclusion in the programme of work of the Unit for 2004 and beyond (see annex).

* A/58/150.

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Annex

Preliminary listing of reports for potential inclusion in the programme of work of the Unit for 2004 and beyond

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 56/245 of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly invited the Joint Inspection Unit to improve the presentation of the listing of potential reports for the following year and beyond by providing information on the source, including the legislative basis, objectives, problems to be addressed, duration and expected date of completion, and to present such information before the final quarter of each year.

2. In order to improve the relevance of its annual programme of work, the JIU is in the process of developing a strategic framework to be based on a thorough risk assessment of the situation in its participating organizations. The main objective of this exercise is to ensure that, in future, the Unit will identify more proactively and systematically those topics deserving priority attention and those which may concern one or several organizations or relate to system-wide issues. This endeavour is conducted concurrently with a review of the Unit's statute and its internal methods of work, and could thus have considerable bearing on the procedures currently in place with regard to the drawing up of its annual programme of work. The Unit intends to present the outcome of this review to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

3. In view of the foregoing, the Inspectors have decided to postpone any decision on the preliminary listing for 2004 until this review has been completed and its strategic framework adopted. The present document therefore contains the following information:

(a) Section II: topics from the preliminary listing for 2003 (see document A/57/321) that were not included in the work programme for the current year but that were retained by the Unit for further consideration following deliberations at the winter session of the Inspectors in January 2003;

(b) Section III: requests received by the Unit from competent organs of its participating organizations;

(c) Section IV: list of suggestions received from executive heads of participating organizations in response to the Unit's request for proposals. It should be noted here that over half of the organizations contacted (16 out of 28) did not respond.

II. Topics retained from the preliminary listing for 2003

(a) Role of the United Nations system in disaster reduction and response;

(b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: review of institutional and programme issues;

(c) Information technology assets and their utility and effectiveness in the United Nations;

(d) Voluntary contributions from Member States.

III. Reports requested by the competent organs of participating organizations

(a) Study of the possibility of harmonizing the statutes of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunal for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (resolution 57/307 of 15 April 2003);

(b) Evaluation of the implementation of results-based budgeting in peacekeeping operations for submission to the General Assembly at its resumed sixtieth session (resolution 57/290 B of 18 June 2003).

IV. Suggestions received from executive heads of participating organizations

(a) Analysis of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contracting modalities for non-UNDP entities (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs);

(b) Impact assessment of the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation on national capacity-building of developing countries (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific);

(c) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the United Nations poverty-reduction programmes (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA);

(d) Review of the multidisciplinary approach in the planning and implementation phases of the work programmes of regional commissions (ESCWA);

(e) Review of the implementation of results-based budgeting and management in the United Nations system: evaluation of implementation experiences from the 2004-2005 work programme and prospects for 2006-2007 (ESCWA);

(f) Study of the extent of variations in pay practices and conditions of service in different bodies in the United Nations common system (International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA));

(g) Analysis and evaluation of printing on demand technology (IAEA);

(h) Study of staff development programmes (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO));

(i) Review of current Inter-Agency Mechanisms and of potential overlap between the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management and subgroups under the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and the United Nations Development Group and its subgroups (FAO);

(j) Comparative study of administrative and information technology support to field offices and projects (FAO).